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IT IS CANCELLED

Col. Z. S. Spalding Withdraws from His Cable Contract.

DECISION REACHED YESTERDAY

Exclusive Franchise Not in Favor.

Colonel Spalding Says He Was Opposed by English and Germans—Will Keep at Work.

Col. Z. S. Spalding has withdrawn from his contract made with the Hawaiian Government for the construction of a cable from California to the Hawaiian Islands. This decision was reached after a lengthy discussion with the Executive that began early Monday morning and was finished at 5 o'clock in the afternoon.

This is simply one way of stating that the Government of Hawaii has decided to desist from granting exclusive franchises for sometime to come. The contract Colonel Spalding made with this Government on August 12, 1895, contained the provision that "the contractor may, at any time prior to the 1st day of May, 1897, cancel this contract. Such bonds so deposited as security shall thereupon be forthwith returned." Colonel Spalding having failed to secure the necessary assistance from the United States, has decided to cancel his contract.

The Executive has had the matter of the extension of the contract under advisement since Colonel Spalding's arrival in the country. The opinions of many of the leading citizens of the country have been sought, and the great majority have declared against further extension of exclusive franchises. At the meeting yesterday Senator Brown and Representative Robertson were among those invited to be present.

Colonel Spalding was seen last night at the Hawaiian Hotel, and asked regarding the rumor that he had withdrawn his agreement from the Government.

"I don't know that I have anything to say to the newspapers regarding what has been done," said the Colonel. "I have had no conference with the Cabinet, and did not come here to ask for an extension of time on my agreement. If the Government wishes to say anything 'official,' all right, let them go ahead. The newspaper reporters here prefer to jump at conclusions, and draw upon their imagination, rather than walk a block and get the information correct. If they want to go on doing that sort of business, all right, I don't care anything about it."

When the reporter suggested that the object of his call was to ascertain correctly what had been done, so there could be no danger of further mistakes, Colonel Spalding said: "My agreement with the Hawaiian Government gave me the right to withdraw my option any time within two years. That time expired on Saturday. The statement that I wanted an extension of time was mere trash. The Government has no power to grant it if I did, without it being ratified by the Legislature. No, I have been working out the cable business more or less for seven years, but more particularly for the last two years. I have made a study of it and believe I have learned something about it. I came here two years ago, and without making much noise about it, secured an exclusive franchise, ratified by the Legislature. And there's where the trouble is."

"As soon as I got the English and German residents commenced to cry 'wolf,' they thought I was getting too much. And those same English and Germans, backed by some of the Honolulu papers, have been opposed to the measure, root and branch, ever since. They were afraid to allow one man to have so much, believing, they said, that it would shut out the English and Germans, who might some day want to construct a cable. I do not mind telling you that that is exactly what I intended to do—shut them out. If these Islands are to be linked by a cable to any country, that country should be the United States, and I

believed, too, that annexation would follow the cable. Some of the men who profess favor to annexation have so little foresight that they could not see any connection between the two—I did."

"While I was working in Washington to have my bill passed, my rivals—the Serrymser Company—were in constant receipt of letters and press clippings at the hands of the opposition, and used them against me. They seemed to take particular delight in getting possession of these letters and showing them to members of the Senate Committee. When I came down here this time, I found the opposition as strong as the letters received in Washington, and the actions of the people there indicated. I felt that to hold the Government to the agreement meant its injury, and decided to withdraw and leave the Hawaiian Government free to act as it pleased, and make contracts with whom it pleased. There was nothing unusual in my having an exclusive franchise. Who in the world wants to put his money into a proposition, and when he is comfortably settled, have some one else start in opposition? I would not put my own money into it, nor would I ask my friends to do so. Do you think it would be right for this Government to give franchises to three other companies to build lines to Wailanae, when there is not more than enough business for one. That's the way they do in the United States, a company builds a line running on one side of a half-acre lot, and when the trains begin running, some other company constructs a line on the other side of the lot. The result is that very few railways in the United States are doing a paying business. It is the way the cable business is cut up on the Atlantic side. Thirteen cable companies are doing what three wires can accomplish without being overworked."

"Some of the people here thought it was a dreadful thing to give me an exclusive franchise, but believed it would be the proper thing to give it to Mr. Serrymser, who is really George Gould, of the Western Union Telegraph system. Any one who lives in the United States knows what a nice, clean, prosperous Western Union is. The Hawaiian Government knew the interests I have in this country, and was willing to give me a franchise. Some people thought that I would go to New York or London and peddle it out, as a man would peanuts. But I am not that kind of a man. I have been offered many thousand dollars to sell out, but I cannot afford to jeopardize my interests here or show so little appreciation of the Government's confidence in me to do anything of the kind. I went, so far in this matter that I actually made contracts for the building of the lines. The best proof you can have of that is to see the documents. Here they are—one for an inter-island cable, one between the United States and Hawaii, one between Hawaii and Japan, and another between Hawaii and Australasia. I have no fault to find with the Government. It is the best you can get, and it has my moral financial support."

Asked if he would abandon hopes of building a cable, Colonel Spalding said he would not say. He had his bills in Washington and friends to work for them, and he hoped they would go through, but he had no opinion to offer.

"I could have built the line and had it finished by this time, but the Government preferred that I go to the United States and see what was to be done there. Some one will build, whether they get a subsidy here or not, but I do not think any one will be foolish enough to take it up without first getting an exclusive franchise. My contracts with the cable construction company do not go into effect until I make the first payment, and I am ready to do that any time."

Choral Society.

It is intended that the first concert to be given by the Honolulu Choral Society will take place on Tuesday next, but in order to accomplish this, it will be necessary to have a full attendance at rehearsal tonight. Professor Yarnley has labored assiduously in training the voices, and his efforts should be rewarded by faithful attendance.

AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION.

Possibility that Australia Will Soon be Under One Government.
WASHINGTON, April 18.—An important report upon the political future of Australia, just sent to the State Department by Consul General Maratta, says that the Colonies are on the eve of federation. An election is to be held at once to elect delegates to a convention to bring about a union of the Colonies. It is proposed to have a governor general of the federation, to be appointed by the Queen, with lieutenant governors for the different colonies, chosen by people of the States. Many differences of opinion, the Consul reports, exist between the leading premiers on minor points, but the convention is expected to adjust these. He predicts that in a short time Australia will be under one government and known to the world as the Australian Nation.

JAPAN'S POINTS

Hawaiian Government to be Asked Questions.

WITH SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

Naniwa is Bringing Commissioner Akiyama.

An Explanation of the Situation From Japanese Point of View.

The Japan Gazette quotes two papers, published in the vernacular, on the history of negotiations, resulting from the sending back of the Japanese free laborers as follows:

The Mainichi and Yomiuri have not exactly the same version as to the instructions which Mr. Akiyama carried over to Hawaii. The former says that the Foreign Office conceived the probability of the Hawaiian Government's shifting its ground as to the cause of the rejection—which indeed appears to be the fact—according to the Japanese Representative's last report. The Government, therefore, according to the Mainichi, specially furnished Mr. Akiyama with instructions to meet the new explanation of the Hawaiian Government. The Yomiuri, however, states that the instructions furnished to Mr. Akiyama were solely based on the original explanation made by the Republic, and hence Mr. Denison is now engaged in drawing up representations to be forwarded to Hawaii in connection with the new feature of the trouble. Be that as it may, the shifting of their ground by the Hawaiian Government may be taken in the sense of an admission on the part of that Government that its action cannot be borne out by reason. From what the Mainichi has learned from certain quarters, the points to be presented to Hawaii in regard to the present complications are somewhat as appended:

1. For a so-called contract laborer there must be, either between the laborer and his employer or between the former and an emigration company a mutually concerted agreement determined in the form of contract to the effect that the laborer will undertake a certain kind of work or will be made to undertake it.

2. The perusal of the Hawaiian law, issued in 1895, clearly indicates that laborers who have agreements with emigration companies merely in connection with the process of crossing over, cannot be regarded as contract laborers.

3. If the emigrants specified in the second clause be designated as contract laborers, what kind of laborers should be designated as free laborers whose landing has been acknowledged and permitted thus far?

4. In view of the fact that the Hawaiian Government formerly permitted the landing of laborers as specified in the second clause as free laborers, why was it maintained as illegal in the present case alone?

5. Was it not an act amounting to a perversion of the meaning of the law and calculated to vitiate mutual amity as well as contradicting the best international usage, if laborers coming under the second clause were all the time intended by the Hawaiian Government to be dealt with in accordance with this provision in Law No. 17, issued in 1895, the effect of such an interpretation being that free laborers who conclude contracts with an emigration company shall be held as violating the law?

The emigrants sent back on board the Coptic are now in a distressing condition, owing to want of funds, and negotiations are now being carried on between them and their emigration agency, the Morimura Gami, as to the payment of the return passage money. This certainly looks as if the Hawaiian authorities were correct in calling them destitute; but the story now is that, out of desperation, they took to gambling while coming back to Japan, and they do not readily consent to pay, even when their agent tells them that he will forego 10 yen out of the passage money of 30 yen. Apart from this question of money, the agent is at

a loss what to do with them, but it is believed that, as most of them think it humiliating to return home, they will be willing to go to Brazil when the Kissa Emigration Company succeeds in concluding an agreement with that Republic about the sending of Japanese laborers. It is said that the amount of damages which each rejected emigrant claims from Hawaii is 313 yen.

The sudden disfavor with which Japanese are now held in Hawaii has some deep cause behind it, as Mr. Kai's information already published in these columns testifies. Several other points not touched on in that gentleman's statement ought to be briefly set forth, so as to make the situation of the Japanese immigration question very clear. In the first place, while Portuguese and Chinamen are generally permanently settled in the archipelago, Japanese merely go there to amass money and to return home as quickly as possible. Secondly, the recent increased influx of free immigrants from Japan and the consequent lowering of the scale of wages very much provoked the anger of other laborers. And, while the Chinamen import goods from America, the Japanese, when they do keep shops, deal in goods exclusively from home. The Japanese national liquor, for example, being cheaper and more palatable, has well-nigh superseded other foreign liquors in Hawaii. This ascendancy of Japanese goods in the Hawaiian market has unfavorably impressed the other nationalities. All these and other causes, already given, have jointly tended to bring the Japanese into disfavor with the Hawaiian Government. It ought to be added that the recent restrictions placed by the Government on the immigration of Japanese contract laborers to limit the proportion to 3 to 7 of Chinese, has lately increased the influx of free laborers from Japan.

OBJECTIONS FROM JAPAN.

They Say Had No Right to Refuse a Landing to Japanese.

YOKOHAMA, April 22.—Count Okuma having demanded of the Hawaiian Government an explanation, through Minister Shimamura, a reply was recently given by that Government and conveyed to Tokyo just after Councilor Akiyama had left for Hawaii. From the reply it appears that the Hawaiian Minister for Foreign Affairs has given up the reasons he had maintained at first, and does not say anything about the cash in the emigrants' possession. Referring to free laborers, he says that they had a contract guaranteeing employment immediately after their landing, and therefore they were not really free laborers, but contract laborers, who ought to have been sent out after having gone through all the steps provided in the treaty, and that inasmuch as they had not gone through such formal proceedings they were illegal emigrants who could not be permitted to land. But as they had actually the regulation cash of \$50 each, according to the treaty, the Hawaiian Government has, in fact, no reason to object to their landing, whatever contract they might have made with the emigration companies. The fact that they had an understanding with the emigration companies that they should be given some kind of employment cannot afford any pretext for saying that they are not really free laborers. The Japanese authorities are, therefore, said to have found more than ever strong reasons for putting the onus of the question upon the Hawaiian Government.

DAMAGES EXPECTED.

Kobe Emigration Company Has Claims for Men Returned.

The Naniwa is to leave today for Hawaii says the Japan Mail of April 22. In the absence of telegraphic communication with the islands, the people of Japan will have to possess their souls in patience. Probably a month will elapse before they obtain any clear information as to the course of the negotiations opened by direction



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